

209 Colonisation no 10

A Few Plain Facts

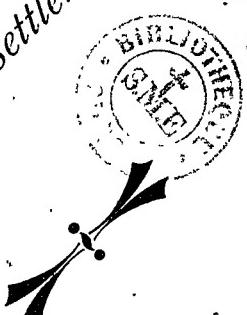
ABOUT THE



ISSUED
BY AUTHORITY OF
THE
EDMONTON
TOWN COUNCIL.

EDMONTON DISTRICT

OF NORTHERN ALBERTA,
NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES OF CANADA.
As a Field for Settlement.



WINNIPEG:

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1892.

DIRECTORY OF THE TOWN OF EDMONTON.

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THE GREAT SASKATCHEWAN COUNTRY.

Entered according to Act of the Parliament of Canada, in the year 1892, by ACTON BURROWS, at the Department of Agriculture.

NORTHERN ALBERTA.

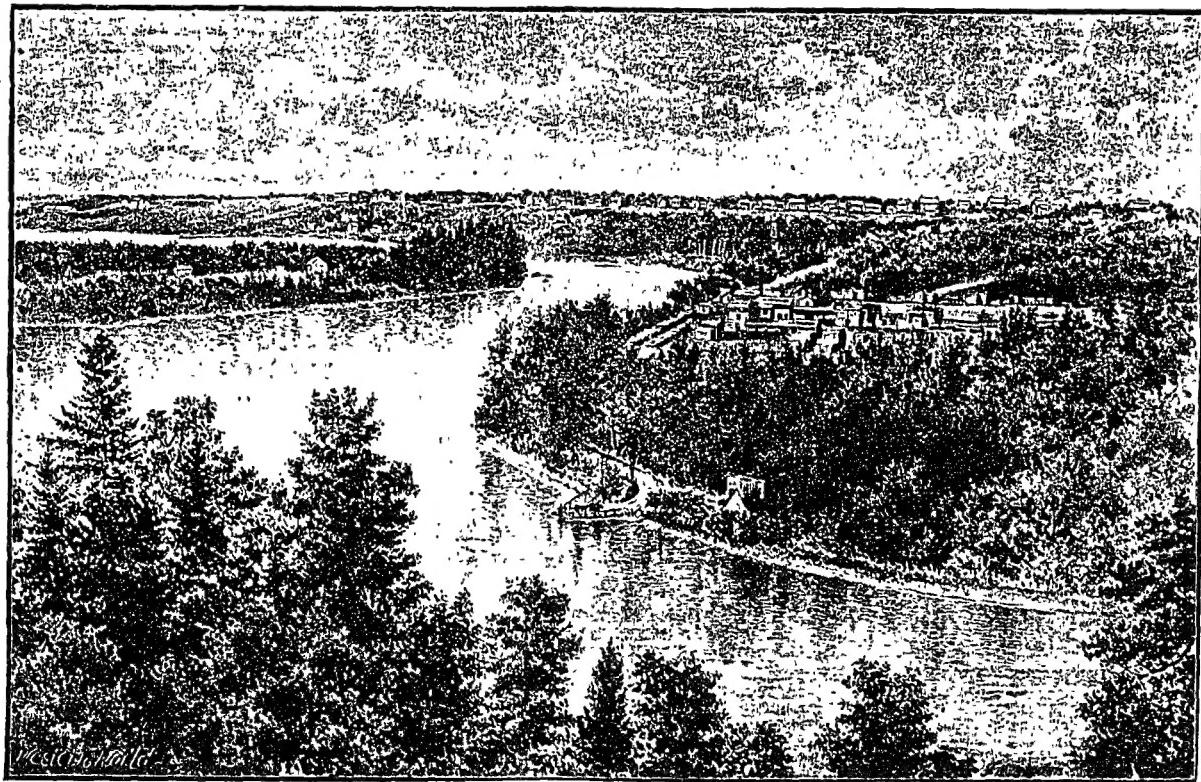
Edmonton and its Tributary District.

The Edmonton district, which was opened to settlement by the completion of the Calgary and Edmonton Railway in August, 1891, occupies the upper or most westerly portion of the great and fertile Saskatchewan Valley, and presents to the intending settler or investor a greater variety of valuable resources and capabilities than any other equal area in North America.

The soil is a black vegetable mould, from one to three feet in depth, overlying a light-colored clay subsoil averaging 12 feet in depth. This

cultivation and returning to it the refuse of what is taken from it. The difference that the staying powers of the fertility of the soil makes to the farmer cannot be over-estimated. It is the difference between wealth and poverty. The farmer who settles on a farm, and in a region where the soil lacks depth, may do well for a time, but as the years go by his land after going up to a certain pitch in value invariably declines as it becomes worked out, for the simple reason that the farm consumes too much according to the amount it produces. The result is disappointment and loss. How many localities can be picked out in the eastern provinces where settlers went in on light quick producing land, and spent the best years of their lives in making their homes only to find that their land had become worthless through

tarries. Woods and prairie alternate irregularly. In some parts there are large plains free from timber, and in others considerable bodies of solid woods composed of large trees. Towards the north and west the proportion of woods increases, until at about 60 miles distance the forest region is reached. Towards the south and west the proportion of plain increases until at a distance of from 70 to 150 miles the woods entirely disappear and the great plains are entered upon, which extend unbroken to the Gulf of Mexico. The great distinguishing feature of the Edmonton district as compared with other sections of the Northwest is the abundance of timber. Nearly half of the whole surface of the Edmonton district proper is covered with large or small woods. In the nature of things this must be caused by, or be the cause



VIEW OF EDMONTON FROM THE SOUTH-EAST.

rests on blue clay, which is broken at irregular intervals by water-bearing seams of sand or gravel, and by beds of coal of varying thickness. There is practically no stony or sandy land, except in isolated or outlying localities. This soil is not only exceptionally fertile to commence with, but has practically an inexhaustible fertility. If the black mould were worked out there would remain the 12 feet of marley clay underneath, which is almost equally fertile and can never be worked out. Of course, the land is the better of good tillage and manure as well; but instead of there being a continued battle as in even the best parts of England or Ontario to keep up the fertility of the soil, necessitating the bringing in of manure from the outside, this land can be kept at the highest pitch of fertility forever merely by good

exhaustion, and that, therefore, their lives had been wasted, while others who went on deeper but more difficult land found a gold mine, which by keeping up its fertility while wealth and the conveniences of civilization increased around it, and because of it, continually increased in value, and made wealthy the owners almost in spite of themselves. This is the kind of land that the Edmonton district has to offer to settlers to a degree that no other part of the territories has. Where a man may take up a farm and be satisfied that his children's children will find it as fertile as he did. Where a man having once driven his stakes need never require to pull them up.

The surface of the country is very gently undulating, except where cut by the deep valley of the Saskatchewan or the lesser valleys of its tribu-

ties. Woods and prairie alternate irregularly. In some parts there are large plains free from timber, and in others considerable bodies of solid woods composed of large trees. Towards the north and west the proportion of woods increases, until at about 60 miles distance the forest region is reached. Towards the south and west the proportion of plain increases until at a distance of from 70 to 150 miles the woods entirely disappear and the great plains are entered upon, which extend unbroken to the Gulf of Mexico. The great distinguishing feature of the Edmonton district as compared with other sections of the Northwest is the abundance of timber. Nearly half of the whole surface of the Edmonton district proper is covered with large or small woods. In the nature of things this must be caused by, or be the cause

of conditions differing very materially from those prevailing throughout the Great Plains, where for hundreds of miles there is not enough wood to make a pen handle, or even from the regions where the growth of wood is comparatively scanty. There being a difference, the settler naturally enquires "Is that difference in favor of the plain or of the partly wooded region as a field for profitable agriculture?" The following extract from the evidence regarding the necessity of tree culture on the plains, given by John Craig, horticulturist to the experimental farms, before the agricultural committee of the House of Commons, should be a sufficient answer —

"The effects of forestry on the climate of a country are nearly all beneficial, such as more equal distribution of rainfall. This is one of the

THE EDMONTON DISTRICT.

most important points to be considered. Another is the regulation of temperature; by this I mean prevention, in a measure, of extremes, the possibilities of a sudden rise or fall in the temperature—changes so frequent in prairie districts—may be lessened. Then, again, evaporation from the soil is very much reduced. There is a vast difference between the condition of the surface of the bare and uncovered soil, and the soil on the forest floor. A forest floor serves the purpose of a sponge in collecting and holding the moisture which comes down in the form of rain. The fine root system of the trees assists in drawing up moisture from below. As the rain falls it collects around and within these forest centres, which hold and give it up gradually, thus obviating spring torrents and summer freshets. Another important point which has not been sufficiently emphasised in connection with forest influence is the prevention of the strong force of the winds, with their great evaporating power. The evaporating power of the wind is generally in direct proportion to its velocity. The greater the velocity the stronger its evaporating power. Thus we can see the value of shelter belts. The more protection we have in the way of shelter belts, the less sweeping winds we have, and the moisture is taken less rapidly from the soil. There is no doubt that as soon as we can get in the Northwest a sufficient amount of forest area to mitigate to some extent the force of the winds, we will have a much less evaporation and much more favorable conditions for fruit culture and agricultural operations generally. It would act in the direction of preventing the direct actions of the sun's rays, and be of great assistance at the time of seed germination in the spring, as very frequently the first sowing of garden seed is much disturbed by spring winds."

To summarize: Forest growth tends to distribute the rainfall evenly; to equalize the temperature, reduce the force of the winds, and to prevent undue evaporation. In other words, it prevents destructive rainstorms and equally destructive droughts, as well as summer frosts and cyclones and winter blizzards. These are only a few of the important advantages which this partly wooded region has to offer over any part of the Great Plains.

There is abundance of excellent water for all purposes. The Saskatchewan, which flows through the centre of the district, is a glacier-fed stream, rising at the summit of the Rockies, and is from 600 to 1,000 feet wide at Edmonton. It is navigable for large steamers during the greater part of the summer, from Edmonton to Grand Rapids, near its outlet in Lake Winnipeg, a distance of about 800 miles. Above Edmonton it is navigable for small, powerful steamers for at least 150 miles. The water is first-class at all seasons of the year, and as clear as crystal, except during the high water of June and July. The assured and abundant rain and snow falls provide an adequate supply of fresh surface water untainted by alkali, and small and large creeks, ponds and lakes are numerous, and well water can be secured almost everywhere at from 10 to 50 feet.

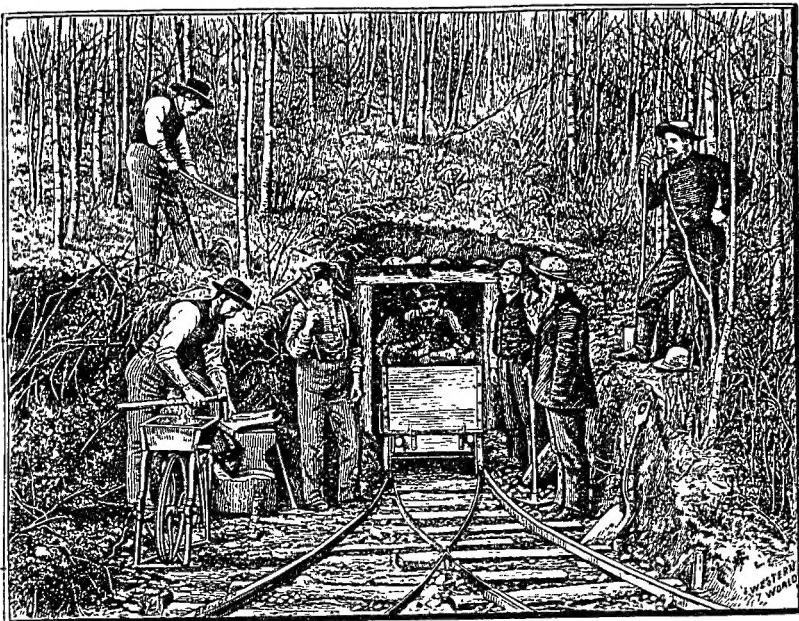
The timber of the district is chiefly poplar in the agricultural sections, with large spruce forests to the west and north. The poplar, both white and black, grows large and straight, and makes excellent building logs. The young growth of the white poplar makes very good rail timber, and is easily procured in large quantities. The gray willow grows to a very large size in places, becoming a tree rather than a bush, and makes excellent

fence pickets, almost as lasting as cedar, which wood that of the willow much resembles. White poplar is universally available for firewood. Small clumps of spruce grow on the banks of the Saskatchewan, on the Beaver Hills, and in other parts of the agricultural region, but the main supply of spruce is in the forest region to the north and west. The spruce of the Edmonton district is superior to that found in any other part of the Territories, both in size and quality, and makes very good lumber, suitable for all purposes of building for which pine is ordinarily used. The waters of the Saskatchewan above Edmonton drain a spruce-bearing area of over 150 miles square. This ensures a supply of locally manufactured lumber for many years, and makes lumbering one of the most important of Edmonton industries.

The staple agricultural products of the district are oats, barley, wheat, potatoes, cabbages, turnips, and all other hardy vegetables; wild hay and timothy, cattle and dairy products, hogs, sheep, horses and poultry. In all these products the Edmonton district is not excelled in America, as has been proven by the experience of the pioneers who settled here 10, 20, and even 30 years ago. Farming has been carried on at Edmonton longer than at any other point in the

over strong competition from all parts of the Territories, at the Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition of 1881. Potatoes are a sure crop, are of large size and excellent quality. They have been grown of perfect shape and weighing four pounds. They do not become hollow or coarse, however large, as in Eastern Canada. At the Edmonton agricultural exhibition of 1881 a turnip weighing 30 pounds was exhibited. Seed onions have been grown over a foot in circumference, and cabbages over 4 feet in circumference, white radish 1 foot 8 inches around by 1 foot 7 inches long, and other vegetables in proportion; all in farmers' gardens or fields without special care or forcing. The growth of wild grass is particularly luxuriant, and the number of varieties is very great. Upland hay is cut in large quantities almost every season, and swamp hay is abundant and good. The wild pea and wild vetch are specialties of the district. Edmonton took first prize at the Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition of 1881, over the whole of Manitoba and the Northwest, with its exhibit of native grasses. Timothy has been grown with the fullest success at Edmonton during the past five years. This is the only section of the Territories that reports complete success in the growth of timothy. Wild strawberries, black currants, raspberries, gooseberries, cranberries, Saskatoon berries and choke berries are abundant. Cultivated red currants grow remarkably well and yield abundantly. The growth of other cultivated varieties of fruit has not passed the experimental stage.

Live stock of all kinds is raised extensively and does well in the Edmonton district, including horses of all grades, from heavy draught to Indian ponies, horned cattle, sheep, pigs and poultry, including turkeys. Native horses do well on the range all the year round, but good stock of whatever kind requires good treatment to bring it to its best, when it is most profitable. In its climate and facilities for raising good cattle this district leads the rest of the Territories. There is a more abundant, varied and nutritive pasture during a longer season in summer, there is a more abundant supply of hay procurable for winter feeding, there is a more abundant and universally distributed water supply, there are less summer or winter



DRIFT ENTRANCE, MR. DONALD ROSS COAL MINE, EDMONTON.

Territories; therefore, the facts regarding that industry in this district are well established. It was the reports in early days, by missionaries, travellers and traders, of the agricultural capabilities of the Edmonton district that made the agricultural reputation of the whole Northwest. Oats have given a yield of 114 weighed bushels to the measured acre, and the weight has sometimes gone up to 50 pounds a standard bushel measure; less than 60 bushels per acre is considered a poor yield. Barley has yielded 60 bushels an acre. Two-rowed barley, such as the English market demands, grows in perfection at Edmonton. Wheat has been a more certain crop in the Edmonton district during the past 10 years than in any other part of the Northwest or of Manitoba. In 1881, a number of fields yielded from 48 to 53 bushels an acre, and the grain weighed 64 pounds to the bushel from the threshing machine. The wheat marketed at Edmonton during the past winter brought a higher average price per bushel than that marketed during the same period at any point in Manitoba, although the freight rate from Edmonton to Toronto—to which point it was shipped—is much higher, proving that the grain must have been of much better average quality. Edmonton took first prize for grain in the straw,

storms, and more shelter by means of woods from those which occur, building timber is more easily procured with which to put up stables for the winter, being nearer the Pacific—the source of the chinook,—the winter climate is less severe than that of the districts along the Saskatchewan further east. As a consequence, a better class of cattle can be raised more cheaply and with less danger of loss in this district than anywhere else in the Territories, and therefore there is more money in the business here. The advantages which tell so heavily in favor of the district for cattle-raising tell as heavily in its favor for dairying. There is a larger flow of richer milk for a longer season than elsewhere, and the quality of the butter made here is unsurpassed. Fresh butter is put upon the market in the latter end of February or the early part of March, and the supply continues until November. Sheep do well, but are not kept extensively, as cattle are less trouble and more profitable. The abundant yield of coarse grains and roots make hog raising a very profitable branch of the farmer's business. Poultry thrives excellently, and fresh eggs are plentiful every year early in March. Turkeys were introduced in 1881, and are now raised in large numbers. An experiment in bee keeping has been carried on during the past

THE EDMONTON DISTRICT.

four years. Sixty swarms, an increase from six, were wintered this year. The men who are now engaged in the experiment are confident that bee keeping will be a great success in this region owing to the abundance of honey-bearing flowers and the long season of bloom.

The larger wild animals, such as moose and bear, and the smaller fur-bearing animals, such as beaver, otter, fisher, etc., are numerous in the thickly wooded districts, and in the Rocky Mountains the big horn sheep and mountain goats are a great attraction to sportsmen. In the park region there are jumping deer, a small variety which yield excellent sport and fair venison.

Wolves are the only wild animals which are dangerous, and they are very rare, not running in packs as in the east. Coyotes—an animal between the fox and wolf—are not dangerous, but sometimes steal chickens and lambs. Rabbits become so numerous every seventh year as to almost amount to being a pest in winter, but they quickly decrease. The gopher, which is such a pest and source of loss to the farmer all over the prairie region of North America, is almost unknown in the Edmonton district, as he does not like to burrow in such a depth of soft black mould. The loss of crop by gophers in the prairie regions in a dry

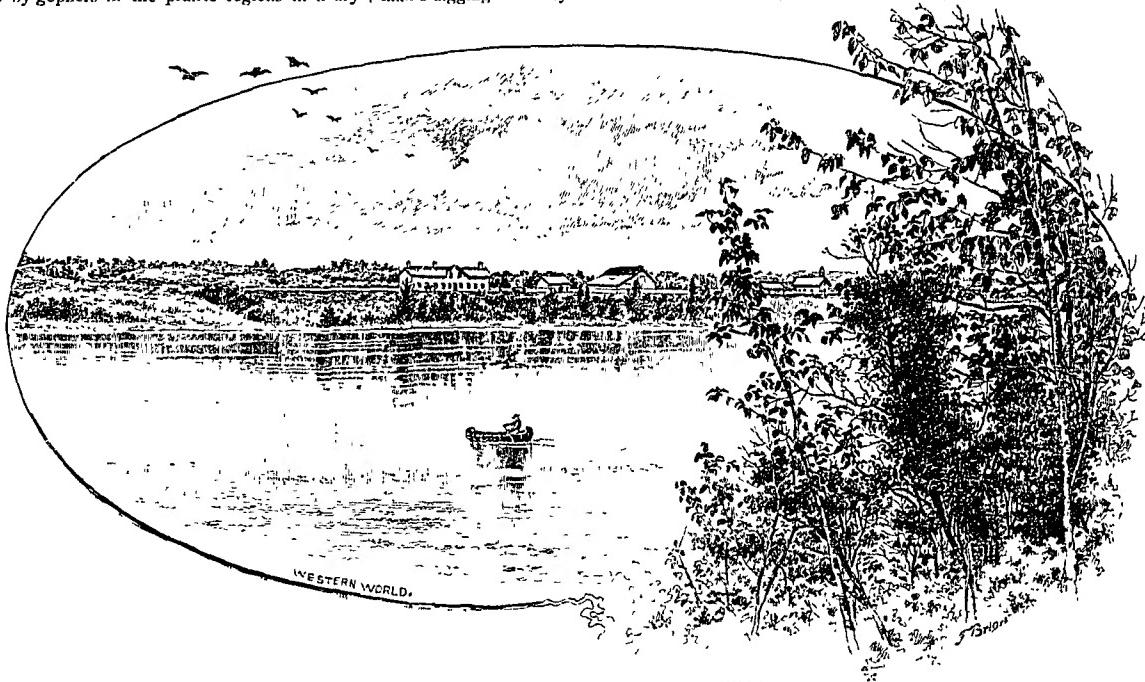
where in the district at a depth of from two to 30 feet in thickness. The coal burned in the town of Edmonton is mined directly under it, tunnels being run in on the coal seams from the face of the river banks. The Sturgeon River settlers use coal taken from the bank of a small tributary of the Sturgeon in that settlement, and indeed coal is easily accessible in every part of the district where a stream cuts a deep enough valley to expose the seam.

Gold is found on the bars of the Saskatchewan in the form of fine dust. It was discovered over 20 years ago, and has been worked to a greater or less extent every year since. Last season between \$15,000 and \$20,000 worth was mined chiefly by settlers living along the banks, who worked on the river during the slack season. An illustration of washing for gold is given on another page. The outfit necessary for mining costs perhaps \$10, and the pay is from \$2 to \$5 a day. The deposits of pay dirt are so extensive that it is estimated 20 years will be required to work them out at the rate of last season. The Macleod River, in the northwestern part of the district, also has gold in paying quantities. These are not rich diggings; they are in fact what are called "poor man's diggings." They will never make a man

haze, clumps of spruce here and there giving a deeper color in places—the whole makes a picture of calm beauty seldom seen except on canvas, and most refreshing to the eye that has for days or weeks or years searched the bare plains of the south for some object of beauty or interest on which to rest.

Regarding this region, J. B. Tyrell, of the Dominion Geological Survey, says in his report on Northern Alberta: "More to the northward clumps of willows appear, and a little further on groves of poplar occur around the lakes and on the northern slopes of the hills, spreading out in places so as to cover areas of considerable extent. We have now reached the partly wooded country. The soil has become richer and deeper, and instead of the short buffalo grass of the plains, the grass is longer and mixed with a thick growth of vetch and pea vine, forming excellent pasture. This partly wooded country, lying between the Great Plains to the south and the forests of the north, has for many years attracted the favorable notice of travellers, and is even yet best known to many by the name 'Fertile Belt,' which was given to it by Dr. Hector in 1801."

Gabriel Franchere, who sailed down the Saskatchewan in 1814, says: "The river Saskatchewan



MR. P. HEMINICK'S FARM, NEAR EDMONTON.

year varies from a third to the whole, and to destroy the gophers has become an important question to the government of the Canadian provinces and adjoining states. This is a question which the settler in the Edmonton district has not to consider.

The numerous lakes and ponds of the district abound in ducks all summer, furnishing excellent and never-failing sport. The larger lakes, such as Beaver Lake, forty miles east of Edmonton, are visited by immense flocks of waveys, geese, swans, etc., in their annual flights north and south in the spring and fall respectively, and these are killed in large numbers. Prairie chickens are numerous in the prairie spaces, and partridges in the woods. Cranes, very large and handsome birds which frequent the open prairie, are also found, but they are not so numerous as on the great plains.

Sturgeon in the Saskatchewan, and whitefish in the large lakes in the western and northern part of the district, are the principal fish. The latter are particularly abundant and fine flavored, equal to any fish in the world. They are sold at Edmonton in winter at from \$5 to \$10 per hundred fish. Salmon trout of large size, pike, pickerel and gold eyes, are the only fish taken with the hook and line.

Coal of excellent quality is found almost every-

where, but they may easily help an industrious poor man along.

Sandstone quarries exist in many places along the river, which is navigable for steamers, and there are large quantities of limestone boulders on the bars, sufficient for present use, but only one limestone quarry has yet been discovered, although there is no doubt that others exist.

Traces of petroleum have been found in various parts of the district, but no satisfactory developments have been made. A little over 200 miles north of Edmonton, on the Athabasca River, in a region whose trade is directly tributary to Edmonton, begins the most extensive petroleum deposit in the known world, as established by the survey of the Canadian government geologists. Further north on the same waters is an immense salt deposit, the product of which has been used for many years throughout the Mackenzie River basin.

The scenery of the Edmonton district is not its least attractive feature. The gently undulating surface showing prairie and woods charmingly interspersed, cut deeply by the Saskatchewan—a stream 1,000 feet wide at low water—and numerous smaller tributary streams and creeks, dotted with small and small fresh water ponds and lakes, the horizon marked on all sides by low heavily wooded hills, which seem covered with a blue

flows over a bed composed of sand and marl, which contributes not a little to diminish the purity and transparency of its waters, which like those of the Missouri are turbid and whitish. Except for that it is one of the prettiest rivers in the world. The banks are perfectly charming, and offer in many places a scene the fairest, the most smiling and the best diversified that can be seen or imagined; hills in varied forms, crowned with superb groves, valleys agreeably embrowned at evening and morning by the prolonged shadow of the hills and of the woods which adorn them, herds of light limbed antelope and heavy colossal buffalo—the former bounding along the slopes of the hills, the latter trampling under their heavy feet the verdure of the plains, all these champaign beauties reflected and doubled, as it were, by the waters of the river, the melodious and varied song of a thousand birds perched on the tree-tops, the refreshing breath of the zephyrs, the serenity of the sky, the purity and salubrity of the air, all, in a word, pour contentment and joy into the soul of the enchanted spectator. It is above all in the morning when the sun is rising and in the evening when it is setting that the spectacle is really ravishing. How came it to pass, I said to myself, that so beautiful a country is not inhabited by human creatures? The songs, the hymns,

THE EDMONTON DISTRICT.

the prayers of the laborer and the artisan, shall they never be heard on these fine plains? Wherefore, while in Europe, and above all in England, so many thousands of men do not possess as their own an inch of ground, and cultivate the soil of their country for proprietors who scarcely leave them wherein to support existence; wherefore do so many millions of acres of apparently fat and fertile land remain uncultivated and support only herds of wild animals? Will men always love better to vegetate all their lives on an ungrateful soil than to seek after fertile regions in order to pass in peace and plenty at least a portion of their days?" The description is as accurate as vivid, but it is a mistake to suppose that the water of the Saskatchewan is always muddy. When the stream is swollen by thaws or rains, it becomes whitish, as the traveller says, but for the greater part of the year it flows past Edmonton as clear as the most beautiful brook.

The climate of the Edmonton district differs very materially from that of any other section of Manitoba or the Northwest. Being further removed than Manitoba from the Arctic waters of Hudson's Bay, and being nearer the warm waters of the Pacific, the summer season is longer than in that province, and the winter less severe. Occupying in common with the rest of the Saskatchewan Valley proper a much lower altitude than the grazing districts of Southern Alberta, it is free from the high winds of summer which dry out the land and make irrigation necessary to agricultural success; and is also free from those sudden changes of temperature which are the natural accompaniment of the high elevation of that region, and which are so destructive during the growing season. The shelter afforded by the boundless forest on the north, and the partly wooded nature of the district itself, entirely prevents the sudden and destructive storms known as blizzards in winter and cyclones in summer, to which all parts of the Great Plains are more or less liable. At the same time there is no reason to deny that the cold of winter is at times severe, and that the summers are not as warm as those of Ontario. It is the cold and snow of winter which chiefly makes the difference in fertility between this extraordinarily fertile region and the arid plains of Montana, Wyoming and Colorado, U.S.A. To

this cold is also due the freedom from endemic diseases in both man and the domestic animals which exists here, and the superior vigor and development enjoyed by both—other things being equal—as compared with more southern regions. The less extreme heat of summer also makes that season less trying to the human frame, and this, with the longer days and consequently increased sunshine, is the cause of the superiority of our northern grown grains and vegetables, which admittedly surpass the world. That Northwest wheat is the best in the world is now a universally accepted fact. That the same is true regarding oats, barley, potatoes and other vegetables is not so well known, but is none the less so; and it is in these products that Edmonton particularly surpasses all other sections of the Northwest.

Regarding the comparative amount of pleasure to be derived from existence under the many different climates of the world, there must always be a very wide difference of opinion, but it must be evident that that climate which gives a person the best health and the greatest vigor, has an advantage which cannot be counterbalanced by any feature of a climate which detracts from health and vigor. Here the snow usually disappears between April 1st and 15th, leaving very little water on the ground. The weather remains cool at nights and warm during the day until about May 15th, after which date frost is unusual, and plant growth begins to be rapid. Rain begins to fall early in June, and growth continues very rapid until about the middle of August. Haying commences about the middle end of July, harvest

from the middle or end of August, and is completed in September, after which growth generally ceases and the grass begins to wither; it generally remains partly green, however, so that it is good pasture, until the ground freezes in the early part of November. There is seldom any rain after August 1st. Snow falls in November, but does not get deep until after New Year's, nor does the weather become severe until then. January and February are the months of cold and snow. In March the weather becomes warmer and the snow disappears. As compared with the climate of Manitoba, the winter season is not so long, or stormy, or so steadily severe, but at times the thermometer goes as low as in Manitoba. The influence of the west or chinook wind is what shortens the winter, and from time to time relieves its severity by mild spells, while the abundance of timber scattered in clumps over the district shelters from the severity of the north wind. The weather is certainly stormy at times, but on account of the abundance of shelter and fuel no great inconvenience is experienced, there is no suffering, and there is no danger. The latitude of Edmonton is the same as that of Dublin, Liverpool and York. It is further south than any part of Scotland, Norway or Sweden, and as far south as the southern point of Denmark. It is far south of St. Petersburg, in Russia, and very little further north than Berlin, the capital of the German Empire.

The following statement regarding the health of this district was furnished jointly by Dr. Wilson

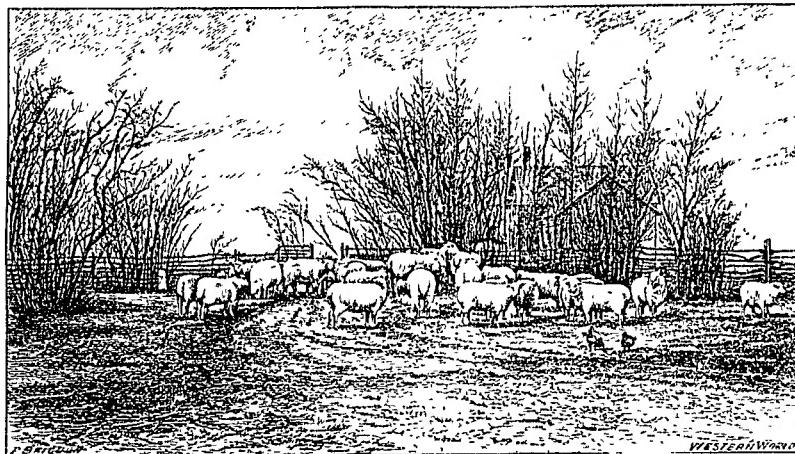
and Dr. McInnis, who have practiced in Edmonton for 10 and 6 years respectively—"Regarding consumption, we have never seen a case in which the disease has been contracted in this district. We have seen several cases which, in the very early stages, were sent here by their medical advisers in the east who are now enjoying the best of health, and every sign of the disease has vanished. We are not subject to bronchitis to the same extent as in the eastern provinces. Naturally we have it following a severe cold, but it never lasts long, and is never as severe as in the east. Even severe cases sent here from the east become entirely well after a few months. Many cases of persons affected with asthma could be cited, every one of whom has either been cured or greatly benefited by residence here. Pneumonia or inflammation of the lungs, which in the east is very prevalent, is here almost unknown. In eight years we have had only one case. Although this district was two winters ago afflicted with a severe epidemic of la grippe, there was not a single case of lung complications resulting, nor was there a death among the white population. This is noteworthy considering the number of deaths following la grippe in Eastern Canada. Compare these facts with the mortality statistics of Eastern Canada, of which Toronto is perhaps the healthiest city, the death rate per thousand of population being lower than in Montreal, Quebec, Hamilton or London. In 1859, 573 deaths occurred in Toronto from diseases of the lungs, which is over 20 per cent of the total deaths for that year. Rheumatic fever is almost unknown in this

district. It is seven years since we have recorded a case of this disease. Diarrhea, dysentery and other affections of the bowels are of very rare occurrence. Not a single death has ever occurred from these diseases during our sojourn here, and we have never heard of a death from these causes before that time. These remarks apply to infants and children as well as adults. In Toronto eight per cent of all deaths are due to these afflictions, and in Winnipeg 10 per cent. In Winnipeg and Ottawa the deaths from these diseases stand first in number in the returns, in Montreal second, and in London, Quebec and Toronto third. No better climate for children than that of Northern Alberta is to be found in America. Typhoid and similar fevers are not prevalent. We have had some few cases of low fever, but none since 1855, and but one death from this cause. Malarial fever or fever and ague is unknown, and owing to the climatic conditions the miasma or poison cannot be developed. The atmosphere is clear, pure and sceptic. In summer warm pleasant days and cool refreshing nights give the tired farmer or man of business an opportunity to recuperate, and gain fresh energy and strength for the morrow's work. The fact of the days being so warm and nights so cool during summer is one of the causes producing our wonderful and prolific crops, but does not come within the scope of the present article. The winters are somewhat colder than in Eastern Canada, but are not so severe or trying to the system, especially to those with what is commonly called weak lungs. We have no blizzards as in the northern States; in short, our winters are very pleasant and likewise conducive to health and longevity."

After all questions regarding soil, climate, products, present condition and future prospects are answered, there still remain questions of importance equal to or greater than any of these. The people are more important than the country. Bad neighbors, bad laws, or bad government, a lack of educational facilities or religious privileges cannot be made up to the law abiding, industrious, thrifty, progressive and God-fearing man or woman by the most productive soil or most genial climate. It is generally the drawback of new countries that the laws are weakly enforced, that there is a numerous lawless class, and that the man who goes into the wilderness to make a home for himself must be

content to see his children grow up in ignorance, and without the restraining influences of religion which would be felt in older and more densely peopled districts. In these particulars the Canadian Northwest is incomparably superior to any other country in process of settlement in the world. Throughout the length and breadth of these Territories the law is as rigidly enforced, the industrious man is protected in his person and in the results of his labors as thoroughly as in the most populous rural district of Ontario. There is no lawless class, there is none of that defiance of law and destruction of order that is popularly supposed to be an outgrowth of pioneer life. The eastern settler coming to the Canadian Northwest finds himself amongst people who are as deeply impressed with the necessity and advantage of maintaining law and order as were his neighbors in the east. Where population is scattered, as it necessarily is in the first settlement of a new country, it is of course impossible that educational facilities should be as abundant as where there is a greater concentration of population and wealth, but as far as has been possible the adverse conditions existing have been made up for. Four heads of families may form a school district, and when formed the government pays from 65 to 75 per cent of the teacher's salary, thereby reducing the cost on the ratepayers to a merely nominal amount. This is unquestionably the most liberal provision for the support of schools in the world.

The Edmonton settlement is the oldest in the Territories, and dates from the establishment of



A FARM HOUSE, NEAR EDMONTON.

trading posts by the Hudson's Bay and Northwest trading companies on the site of the present town of Edmonton, probably before the beginning of the present century. Owing to geographical position and other natural causes, it was the most important post owned by the Hudson's Bay Company in what is now the Northwest Territories. The first permanent settlements were established, with Edmonton as a central point, at Lake St. Ann, Lac le Biche, St. Albert, Victoria, Whitefish Lake and St. Paul, before the transfer of the Territories to Canada in 1870, chiefly by missionary enterprise, whereby the half-breeds and Indians were gathered into settled communities. All of these are still in existence except St. Paul. The Edmonton settlement surrounding and including the present town in which the H. B. Co.'s fort is situated was not commenced until after the transfer in 1870. Ever since that time there has been a constantly increasing population, increasingly dependent upon agricultural pursuits for support. The early Canadian Pacific Railway surveys, through the Jasper Pass, for which Edmonton was the base of supplies, brought the place somewhat prominently before the eastern public, and in 1880 and 1881, when it was finally decided

land-seekers came in ever increasing numbers, and the large majority were so well satisfied that they sought no further. From being unknown and unheard of, Edmonton has become the most favorably regarded point in the Northwest. Last season over 500 homestead entries were made in the Edmonton land office; and this season up to May 1st fully 1,000 new settlers have arrived at Edmonton station.

Just how the Canadian Pacific Railway regards this, by them long neglected, section of the Northwest may be known exactly from the land map which they have just issued in connection with their land sales at Edmonton. By the terms of their bargain with the Government, they had a grant of 25,000,000 acres of land, which they could take in a belt along their main line or elsewhere in the Territories. Ever since the completion of the railway they have kept in the field a large number of parties of examiners selecting, as was their privilege, the best of the lands. The selection was completed in the beginning of the present year, with the result, as shown by the map mentioned, that while the bulk of the lands along the main line west of the third meridian have been rejected, the odd-numbered sections

entry may be made personally at the local land office in which the land to be taken is situated, or if the homesteader desires he may, on application to the Minister of the Interior, Ottawa, or the Commissioner of Dominion Lands, Winnipeg, receive authority for some one to make the entry for him. A fee of \$10 is charged for an ordinary homestead entry; but for lands which have been rejected an additional fee of \$10 is chargeable to meet inspection and cancellation expenses.

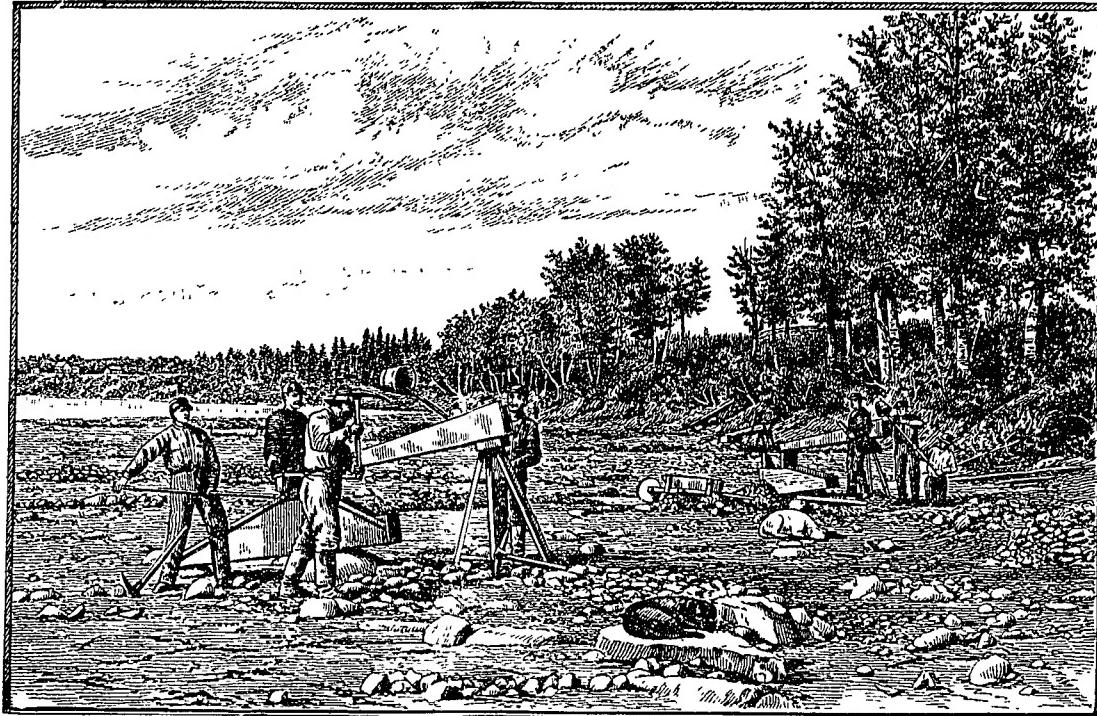
Under the present law homestead entries may be performed in three ways, and on making application for entry the settler must declare under which of the following conditions he elects to hold his land:

1. Three years' cultivation and residence, during which period the settler may not be absent for more than six months in any one year, and not for longer than the entire year.

2. Residence for three years, anywhere within two miles of the homestead quarter section, and afterwards actual residence in a habitable house upon the homestead for three months next prior to application for patent. Under this system 10 acres must be broken the first year after entry, 15 additional in the second, and 15 in the third year; 10 to be in crop the second year, and 15 the third year.

3. Five years' cultivation under which a settler may reside anywhere for the first two years (but must perfect his entry by commencing cultivation within six months after the date there of), breaking 5 acres the first year, cropping those 5 acres and breaking 10 acres additional the second year, and also building a habitable house before the end of the second year. The settler must commence actual residence on the homestead at the expiration of two years from the date of entry, and thereafter reside upon and cultivate his homestead for at least six months in each of the three next succeeding years.

Although as yet only one line of railway has reached Edmonton, being operated as branch of



WASHING FOR GOLD ON THE SASKATCHEWAN, NEAR EDMONTON.

to build the line, there was a large influx of Canadian settlers, who expected the railway to follow in a few years. The change of route by way of the Kicking Horse Pass, which carried the line 200 miles south of Edmonton, was a severe disappointment to them. Notwithstanding this, population and prosperity has steadily though slowly increased, and Edmonton settlement has spread so as to include a tract of country about 25 miles long by 20 miles wide, having a population of over 4,000.

Ever since the advent of the railway in August, 1891, the district has progressed at an ever increasing speed. As long as no railway ran north from the main line of the C. P. R., the public at large took for granted that there was nothing worth running a railway for. The argument was "If the north country was the best the C. P. R. would have run their main line through it," and this argument was so conclusive that very few thought it worth while to examine for themselves. The building of the Calgary and Edmonton Railway reversed this argument, and the inference was at once established that there must be something worth building for. Curiosity was aroused by the commencement of the railway, and its completion made easy the gratification of that curiosity.

throughout the whole Edmonton district have been taken almost without exception. This is the best evidence that can be produced as to the superiority of the district, being the result of actual examination by practical men for a practical purpose. Within the present Edmonton settlement the demands for land have been so numerous that the company has decided to offer its lands so situated by public auction. Outside the settlement the company sells at a fixed price of \$3 an acre, on 10 years time, with interest at 6 per cent. Now that the railway company is offering the odd numbered sections for sale at a low price, one of the greatest hindrances to progress is removed. A person may acquire all the land he can pay for, and people may settle as close together as they choose, thereby making more easy the support of schools, churches and good roads, and increasing the value of the land as these accessories of civilization are multiplied.

The homestead regulations are as follows: — All even numbered sections of Dominion Lands in Manitoba or the Northwest Territories, excepting 8 and 20, which have not been homesteaded, reserved to provide wood lots for settlers, and all odd-numbered sections of the same, which is who is the sole head of a family (this includes females) or male over 18 years of age, to the extent of one quarter section of 160 acres, more or less. North of the Saskatchewan sections 8 and 20 may be homesteaded.

the Canadian Pacific Railway, it gives the excellent service which is characteristic of that road. The service is twice a week from the main line at Calgary. The run of 192 miles is made during the day. The road is smooth, the cars comfortable and clean, and the officials obliging. The branch train starts from the main line station in Calgary, and the connections are good. During the past winter the branch train was never delayed a minute by snow, storm or cold, probably the only line of equal length in Canada of which this could be said. The freight service was prompt and efficient as on any road in the world. The export rate on wheat to Montreal or Toronto is 55 cents per 100 pounds, and on live cattle \$1.08 per 100 pounds.

The question of markets is an important one to the actual or prospective settler, and the producing region nearest to the best consuming market is the one that, other things being equal, will and should have the preference with settlers and investors. The chief objection urged by Manitoba immigration agents and agencies to the Territories is that increased distance west of Winnipeg means decreased prices for produce. If Montreal was the only market for produce this would be true to a certain extent, but it is not. Vancouver is a con-

THE EDMONTON DISTRICT.

suming market as well as Montreal, and a port of shipment to other consuming markets also. Consequently the farmer's prices depend as much upon his comparative proximity to Vancouver as to Montreal. Winnipeg is the Manitoba produce shipping point nearest to Montreal as Edmonton is the Northwest shipping point nearest to Vancouver. Montreal is roughly 1,200 miles from Winnipeg, and Edmonton is roughly 700 from Vancouver. Edmonton is therefore 500 nearer a consuming and shipping market than Winnipeg, so that if Montreal and Vancouver prices were the same the Edmonton farmer would have an advantage of 500 miles less haul to market over the farmer in the immediate vicinity of Winnipeg. A comparison of the market prices of farmers' produce in Montreal and Vancouver, taken from the Montreal Trade Bulletin of March 11th and the British Columbia correspondence of the Winnipeg Commercial dated March 8th, is given below:

MONTREAL.

Flour, patent, \$5 a barrel.
Flour, strong bakers, \$4 to \$4.50 a barrel.
Wheat, \$5 to \$6 a bushel.
Oats, 32 to 35¢ a bushel.
Barley, feed, 18 to 20¢ a bushel.
Potatoes, 21 to 26¢ a bushel.
Butter, cream, 25 to 28¢ a pound.
Eggs, 12 to 14¢ a dozen.
Dressed Hogs, 6 to 6½¢ a pound.
Live cattle, 3½ to 4¢ a pound.
Live sheep, 35¢ to 4¢ a pound.
Live hogs, 5¢ a pound.

VANCOUVER.

Flour, patent, \$5.50 a barrel.
Flour, strong bakers, \$5 to \$6 a barrel.
Wheat, 50 to 55¢ a bushel.
Oats, 51 to 54¢ a bushel.
Canned feed, barley and oats mixed, per bushel of 48 lbs., 5¢; per 100 lbs., \$1.75.
Potatoes, 18 to 75¢ a bushel.
Butter, creamery, 27 to 29½¢ a pound.
Eggs, 10 to 25¢ a dozen.
Dressed hogs, 14¢ a pound.
Dressed beef, 6¢ a pound.
Dressed mutton, 13 to 13½¢ a pound.
Live cattle, 3½ to 5¢ a pound.
Live sheep, 75¢ a pound.
Live hogs, 7½¢ a pound.

Since the completion of the C. & E. railway in August last up to the date of writing (April 14, 1892) the following quantities of Edmonton produce have been exported in car lots. This does not include the smaller quantities sent out, such as furs, by express:—Furs, 4 car loads to Montreal; wheat, 15 car loads to North Bay; oats, 8 cars to Calgary, 2 to Donald, 2 to Innisfail, 1 to Field, and 1 to Cochrane, 14 in all; barley, 3 cars to Vancouver; potatoes, 3 cars to Calgary, 2 to Canmore; fat cattle, 4 cars to Vancouver; coal, 10 cars to Calgary, 1 to Red Deer, and 1 to Innisfail, 12 in all; a total export of 57 car loads. The variety and value of these exports of Edmonton during part of the first season of railway communication is the most satisfactory assurance possible of the productiveness of the country and the variety of its resources, as well as readiness of its markets.

THIS TOWN OF EDMONTON

The town of Edmonton, which was incorporated in January, 1892, is situated in the very heart and centre of the district, and settlement to which its name has been given; for Edmonton was known as an important trade centre and point of travel long before agriculture in any part of the Northwest was dreamed of. At and immediately around the town the agricultural advantages of the country are most thoroughly established, and in its vicinity is found the deepest soil, the most assured rainfall, the most luxuriant growth, the least stormy weather, and the fullest advantages of civilization that this far northwestern district of the Northwest has to offer. In the valley of the Saskatchewan at this point, from the Beaver Hills south of the river to the watershed between the Saskatchewan and Athabasca on the north, there are attractions of soil, climate and natural resources not to be found elsewhere. The more open country to the south and east may be more

attractive, as being more easily brought under cultivation, but that is only a temporary advantage, and does not balance the greater depth of fertile soil and more luxuriant growth near Edmonton.

Although the progress of settlement and railways in other sections of the Territories for a time detracted from the comparative importance of Edmonton as a trade centre, now it has been accorded railway advantages it has become the trade and industrial centre of the most prosperous and progressive agricultural settlement in the Northwest. Besides, it is now, more than ever, the supply depot and trading point for the whole Mackenzie Basin, a vast region whose only present export—fur—is handled exclusively by and through Edmonton, making this the most important local fur market on the continent, and giving Edmonton a leading place amongst the rising towns of the Northwest. While the Mackenzie Basin only produces fur at present, it has large areas of the finest agricultural and grazing lands on Peace River, great forests of valuable timber on the Liard River, fisheries in its chain of lakes second only to those of the St. Lawrence, the largest petroleum field in the known world on the Athabasca, immense salt beds on Great Slave River, and vast deposits of sulphur, copper and iron besides. The fur trade alone of this region now occupies three large steamers plying on the waters of the Mackenzie; and when civilization

comes is also shipped to Battleford every season by flat boats down the Saskatchewan, so that Edmonton commands two outlets for her coal. As the supply of coal is absolutely inexhaustible, the importance of Edmonton as a mining centre depends only on the growth of settlement in the Saskatchewan Valley and the west generally.

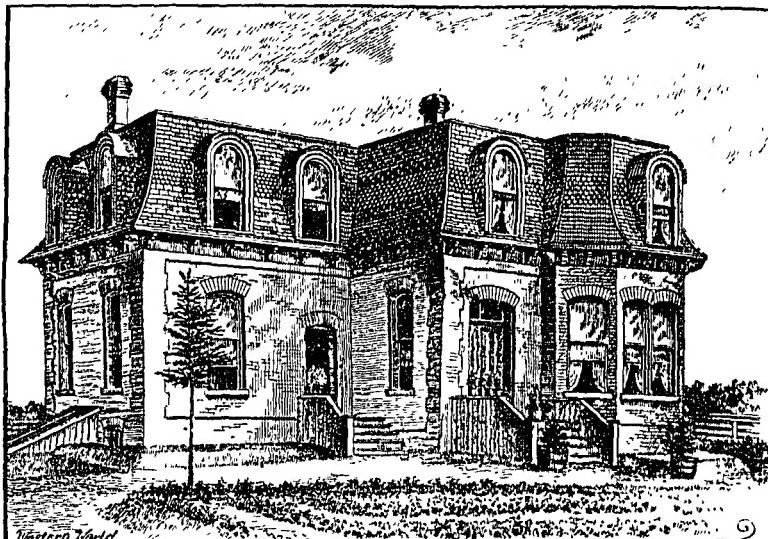
Situated in the centre of an agricultural region, a flour mill became a necessity very early in the history of the place. In the early days a mill was run by horse-power in the Hudson's Bay Co.'s fort. Later, a water mill was built on the Mill creek, opposite town; and in 1879 McLeod, Norris and Fletcher erected the steam mill now owned by Fraser & Co. The advent of the railway, with the increase of settlement, the large local demand for flour, the excellent export market in British Columbia, and the fine quality of the wheat raised in the district, have given rise to several projects for establishing roller mills at Edmonton, the leading one being the organization of a milling company by Messrs. Ross, Mann, Holl, McKenzie and Norton, builders of the C. & E. railway. The well-known financial standing and business ability of these gentlemen ensure the success of the project. A brick-yard was established by W. Humberstone in 1881. The brick made there has stood the test of time. It is hard, sound, and of good color, and is pronounced by the government architect the best brick made in the Northwest.

The first public school in the Territories was established in Edmonton in 1881 by private subscription, and a good school has been a leading feature of the place ever since. At present there is a Protestant public school employing three teachers and having an attendance of nearly 100 pupils. There is also a separate Roman Catholic school, with an attendance of over 50. There are four churches: Presbyterian, Episcopal, Methodist and Roman Catholic. The stores carry very heavy stocks in all lines, and do a large wholesale as well as retail business. There are three large and well kept hotels which afford every accommodation to the travelling public. The Imperial Bank has a branch here, and also the private banking house of Lafferty & Moore. The Dominion Lands, timber and registry offices for the district of North Alberta are located here; and the

sittings of the Supreme Court for the judicial district of that name are held at Edmonton, where also the sheriff and clerk reside. The government telegraph line from the south unite at Edmonton, and give direct communication in both directions. There is a complete telephone service throughout the town, and a most efficient electric light service.

As will be seen by the view on the first page of this article, the town is beautifully situated on the high land overlooking the Saskatchewan and its valley, where the river makes several picturesque bends, giving advantages for desirable residence sites unequalled in any other town in the Northwest. With its beauty of situation, its healthfulness, its position in the centre of the finest mixed farming region in Canada, its command of the navigation and commerce of the Saskatchewan and as well of the Mackenzie and all its waters, its local industries of coal mining, lumbering, brick making and milling, and its nearness to the markets of British Columbia, Edmonton cannot fail to become in the near future the largest and most important town in the Territories.

Three families of Germans for Olatskwan and seven families for Wabaskew, both south of Edmonton, passed through Winnipeg recently to start farming. They numbered altogether 60 souls, and many more from the old country will shortly come out to join them.



MR. JOHN CAMERON'S HOUSE, EDMONTON.

The Edmonton Coal Deposits.

By Stewart D. Mulkern.

The presence of coal on the Saskatchewan has been known by the Hudson's Bay Company for many years, but it was not until the report of Capt. Palliser's explorations during 1857, 1858 and 1859 was published that it was made known to the public. It has been estimated by geologists that the coal measures of Alberta extend over 12,000 square miles, and that the coal underlying one square mile, supposing the seam to be four feet thick, which is an average, would amount to 5,000,000 tons. Fully half of the area of coal is on the North Saskatchewan and tributary rivers; and taking into account the above estimate, it may be fairly said the coal is inexhaustible. The first persons to mine coal at Edmonton as a commercial undertaking were Mr. Donald Ross and Mr. William Humberstone. Mr. Ross opened a seam on the south bank of the river in 1880, and took therefrom a thousand tons in four years. In 1885 he opened another mine on the north side, which he still works, and from which he has taken 4,000 tons. Mr. Humberstone first opened a mine on the south bank of the river in 1880, but in 1881 opened his present mine, from which he has taken 6,000 tons. Other mines have been opened by various persons, among whom are Messrs. Sander-son, Thomas and Moran, who have taken out upwards of 3,000 tons. This makes a total of 14,000 tons taken out during the last 12 years. Some of this coal has been shipped to Calgary, and some by river to Battleford and Prince Albert, but most of it has been used in Edmonton, where it sells at \$2.50 a ton.

Mr. Tyrell, B.A., F.G.S., Field Geologist of the Geological Survey of Canada, in the Geological Report for 1880, speaking of Edmonton coal, says: "At Edmonton a coal seam four feet thick crops out on the south side of the river, 40ft. above the water. A quantity was mined from it, but lately Mr. Donald Ross has run a drift in the north bank, through a mass of quartzite pebbles sifted from above. The seam consists of three feet of good workable coal, overlaid by about a foot of dark clay shale, which is again overlain by a considerable thickness of impure coal. It has not been found advisable to work this upper part of the seam, but it forms a very good roof for the drifts and rooms. The coal is being used in Edmonton at the different forges and generally throughout the town; it burns well both in stoves and grates, making a beautiful clear hot fire, and when stored under a roof can be kept for a long time in a perfectly serviceable condition. Some which had been lying in a shed for a year was in lumps, and when burned made an excellent fire."

Mr. Hoffman, government assayer, in the same report gives the following analysis of coal from this seam:

Hygroscopic water	11.47
Volatile combustible matter	36.12
Fixed carbon	48.57
Ash	3.81
<hr/>	
100.00	

This compares favorably with any coal in Alberta. Since the completion of the Calgary and Edmonton Railway to this point a number of car-loads of coal have been sent to Calgary and other places on the line, and it has given good satisfaction in competition with Lethbridge, Canmore and other coals. If we consider that this coal is placed at the head of navigation on a river flowing for 600 miles through a rich agricultural country, though not bountifully supplied with fuel of any kind, but capable of supporting a population of millions, some idea may be formed of the future of the coal mining industry of Edmonton, and the time is not far distant when thousands of hardy miners will be required to bring to light the illimitable stores of fuel deposited centuries ago by the beneficent hand of nature for the use and benefit of the toiling millions of the Northwest.

The Illustrations.

On this and preceding pages are exact reproductions of photographs by Boone & May, of Calgary, and Steele & Wing, of Winnipeg, and

give an excellent idea of the picturesqueness of the Edmonton district and of its varied resources. The view of the town is taken from Dowler's Point, on the south bank of the Saskatchewan and southeast of the town. It shows the pretty windings of the river and its wooded banks. The ferry shown is on the main route from the station to the town. On the flat just beyond is the extensive lumber mill of Fraser & Co., who also operate a grist mill. The town is seen beyond on the high banks of the river. To the extreme left of the view is the fort, the headquarters of the Hudson's Bay Co. for the district.

The view of the drift entrance to Mr. Donald Ross' mine shows the ease with which coal is procured. The entrance is level with the seam, no hoisting or pumping being required. Reference has been made in previous pages to the gold-washing operations on the river, which will be better understood from the view showing the simplicity and easiness of the work.

The residence of Mr. John Cameron, a leading merchant and a member of the town council, is built of local brick, the excellent qualities of which have already been referred to. The house is charmingly situated overlooking the river.

The farm views are typical ones, and show how thoroughly diversified the district is. Mr. Heimlich's farm fronts on the Saskatchewan, and is

Saskatchewan the annual supplies for Fort Edmonton. Now the facilities afforded by the railway are made use of and with the exception of the 100 miles that lie between Edmonton and the Athabasca River there is communication by steam between the Arctic Sea and the factories where the blankets and beads that gladden the hearts of the Indians are produced. The trade of the great country to the North is all conducted through Edmonton, and for this reason the trading shop and warehouses of the old Fort are maintained. Here departs the only remaining service of Red River carts, and the supplies for the Mackenzie, Athabasca and Peace River country are transported to the "gateway of the North" at the Athabasca Landing.

But while the interests of the great fur trade have thus been promoted the more modern business which the advancing tide of immigration brings with it has not been lost sight of. As the possessors of part of one of the most beautiful town-sites in the North-West, the H. B. Company are about to erect on it one of their general stores, such as Calgary, McLeod and many of the towns in the West possess. The general stores of the Company will be located in the vicinity of the Government Buildings, the Town Hall, the Post Office and other important buildings. Meanwhile, to meet the wants of this fast growing community, the Company occupy temporary premises in addition to the old Fort store.

The old Fort, with its traditions of bravery and mighty hunting, will soon have passed away, but in the newer Edmonton that is fast coming into importance as one of the important towns of the West, it is to be hoped the Company will continue to enjoy prosperity, and that the names of those pioneers who endured so much in the early history and development of the country may not be forgotten.

Land Sales at Edmonton.

The Canadian Pacific Railway Company held an auction sale of farm lands at Edmonton on May 4, which was highly successful, some 15,000 acres being disposed of at prices ranging from \$3.10 to \$7.00 an acre. Purchasers were present from the Eastern Provinces and British Columbia, but the majority present were settlers of the surrounding districts. The sale was so satisfactory that another will be held either at the end of June or the first week in July.

Land Commissioner Hamilton, who attended the sale, says there is a great rush toward Beaver Lake district and into the Battle River country, which appear to be the two most favored sections. While he was in Edmonton the Dominion Land's office was thronged every day by new arrivals making entries of homesteads in those districts. The Parry Sound party, which went out from Ontario a few weeks ago, is now settled, many of its members on homesteads, though some have rented improved farms for this season. Mr. Hamilton says—"Many wonder at the attractions of the Edmonton district when they comprehend the large number of settlers that have gone into the country this spring. I think an explanation offered by Mr. Hull, of Calgary, who I met at Edmonton, is the principal feature in deciding people to locate in the district. Mr. Hull says the section is looked upon as the supply ground for cattle, in the spring and summer, for the British Columbia market. The western ranchers are seeking this market, and every year it is being more largely developed, and enormous shipments are regularly made over the mountains. In the Edmonton district hay can be secured very cheap, and by feeding the cattle on coarse grain, not fit for export, animals are in prime condition in spring and summer. British Columbia promises an unlimited market for North-West beef, and the Alberta stockmen are determined to keep it in their hands."

The great rush of new settlers in the Northwest Territories this season has been to the Edmonton district, and there is little doubt the influx will keep steadily increasing.

A colony of 200 persons, including 66 men, from near Parry Sound, Ontario, have recently settled in the Edmonton district. They took out with them 86 horses, 170 cattle and a large amount of effects,



IN A FIELD OF OATS ON THE CALGARY & EDMONTON RAILWAY.

not only prettily situated but is a first-class farming location.

The H. B. Co. at Edmonton.

The present progressiveness of the Hudson's Bay Company is demonstrated in Edmonton to a marked degree. Who that remembers the blighted and weather-beaten bastions of old Fort Edmonton from which, but a few years ago, those stationed at this then isolated post looked across the Saskatchewan River with anxiety when there were rumors of the approach of the Blackfeet, or watched but little more than 20 years ago the last fight between the Blackfeet and the Crees can fail to be astonished at the development of the place? "The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world," and the names of Rowan, Simelair, Christie and Hardisty can but be remembered with pride when one thinks of the work that has been done in bringing this beautiful country from being but the hunting grounds of the most savage Indians of the North-West, to be as it now is, the ideal home of the farmer.

It is within the memory of many when the old brigades of boats that went but once a year to York Factory were replaced by the groaning, creaking teams of oxen that annually wended their winding way to the then important headquarters at Fort Garry, 1000 miles away, and when these in their turn were succeeded by the steamers which for a few years back on the flood of the mighty Sas-

THE EDMONTON DISTRICT.

A Settler from Nova Scotia.

Mr. George Sutherland writes from Sturgeon River, near Edmonton: "I left Colchester County, Nova Scotia, June 1st, 1883, arriving at Edmonton on July 12th of the same year. I took up land in the Sturgeon River settlement, and put 16 acres under crop the following spring. I have been cultivating the same with its yearly additions ever since without using any fertilizers, and the crop of 1891 was better than that of 1884. Wheat, oats, barley, etc., yield remarkably well under favorable circumstances. I have had as many as 100 bushels of oats, 50 of wheat, and 45 of barley to the acre. Potatoes, turnips, cabbages, etc., in fact all roots and vegetables do well. Cultivated and wild fruit are in abundance in their season. Timothy, upland and swamp hay grow luxuriantly. Water, coal, dry wood, fence rails and building timber are plentiful. The climate is very exhilarating. Winter commences in December, spring opens in March. Stock need but little care through the winter; work horses and milk cows are better for being stabled. Young cattle and horses do well if they have access to the straw stacks and a shed to

and laborers find employment readily at certain times of the year. Prospectors for gold make from \$2 to \$5 a day on the bars of the North Saskatchewan River at Edmonton. The Canadian Pacific Railway furnish first-class accommodation as far north as the town of Edmonton, and is doing business far in advance of expectations.

"Those who are living on reduced or poor farms and wish to better their condition can do so by going to the Edmonton district of Northern Alberta. There are no large trees to fell, no stumps to root out, no stones to pick, or no heavy bills to climb, but one can settle on a farm almost ready made. The government will give 160 acres of choice land for the small sum of \$10, on condition that certain improvements are made on it in a given time. They will sell adjoining lands at a nominal price, payable in yearly instalments and at low rate of interest; or if that will not suit, the C. P. R. Co. are offering choice lands in the Edmonton district, near the railroad, at from \$3 an acre, payable in 10 yearly instalments, at 6 per cent. interest. Their officers and agents are obliging, kind and courteous, and full of information. When purchasing your ticket of any of them state whether you intend to prosecute much-

climate here, I can speak from knowledge of over eight years experience that the climate surpasses that of the Maritime Provinces in serenity and buoyancy, caused by the air being so much drier; although the thermometer falls lower occasionally here, the cold is not so piercing as the cold, raw winds, with frowning skies, which prevail in the Eastern Provinces. It may suffice to say that horses winter out on the prairie and cattle do well in sheds; whereas it is a well-known fact that animals would certainly die outside in winter in the east.

"The next important matter that is to be considered is the soil, which I must say is second to none in the Dominion, as the manure is considered as much of a nuisance here as it is looked upon at home as an all-important factor to replenish the soil. In the next place, instead of pursuing the steps of our fathers' and forefathers' vicissitudes and hardships in chopping the forest off the face, all that is necessary here is to start the plow on an already made farm by nature, and the quality and quantity of grain far exceeds the most carefully fertilized and tilled soil east; and to give here the accurate yield per acre in many cases would be considered incredible.



MR. JAMES PRICE'S BILLMONT FARM, NEAR EDMONTON.

go to in the coldest weather. Sheep do well and increase rapidly.

"There are several agricultural implement agencies, where we can get any farm implement of the latest and most improved kinds at moderate prices and on reasonable terms. We have live men as real estate agents who are doing a rushing business, and are always ready to give any information required by the intending settler in town or country. We have fine dry goods, grocery, hardware, furniture, stationery and jewelry stores, where we get anything in their line at bottom prices. Lumber yards, where we get any kind required for building purposes at from \$20 a thousand feet up. Graining mills, saw-mills, churches, schools, post offices seem to keep pace with the requirements of the settlers. Schools are liberally supported by aid from the Government. Two banking institutions are doing a remunerative business. Clergymen, lawyers, doctors, druggists, etc., are well represented. We have contractors and builders who furnish material and erect buildings at short notice and at low figures. There is first-class hotel accommodation at moderate rates. Livery and feed stables, butchers, blacksmiths, tailors, shoemakers, etc., etc., are all on the alert; and there is a live newspaper from which we get reliable information. Mechanics

ing or mixed farming. If ranching, they may tell you Southern Alberta is well adapted for such, but whenever you mention mixed farming they will invariably tell you to take your ticket to Northern Alberta, more particularly to the Edmonton district, which is excelled by no other part of the Canadian Northwest for that purpose."

A Farmer's Testimony.

Mr. Malcolm McKinlay writes from Sturgeon River, N.W.T. — "I came from Prince Edward Island in 1883, and settled on section 32, R. 24, T. 54. I have 70 acres cultivated, comparatively well stocked, and fair buildings, approximate to fuel, water and timber, as these essential requirements are abundant all over Northern Alberta, no settler can make a mistake in selecting land. I am aware there has been a prevailing opinion throughout the Maritime Provinces that this part of the country was too far north, consequently the desire for emigrating was invariably to the south, or rather more to a country as warm or warmer than the Provinces, which no doubt was very good reasoning, as the climate is the first and most important feature to be considered by any intending settler. To remove that impression regarding the

"Horses, cows and sheep do well here and profitable to the owner, as can be easily comprehended on account of such abundance of pasture. The growth of vegetation is enormous. I have known where cattle grazed all summer and the required hay for winter use has been cut on same ground. Regarding risks in raising crops, I may say during my experience of over eight years, that a good average could have been raised every year. No doubt it is necessary to have the ground ready in fall to put in the wheat early, or as soon as the snow is off the ground, which takes place about April 1st. Snow for sleighing may be looked for about January 1st."

It is expected that in consequence of the great rush to the Edmonton district the regular train service from the main line at Calgary will have to be increased.

Among the immigrants who passed through Winnipeg recently were 42 French Canadians for St. Albert and 21 Flemish people from Belgium, under the care of the Rev. Father Morin of Montreal. The Flemish people will start a brewery at Edmonton, and the French will join a colony of farmers.

DIRECTORY OF THE TOWN OF EDMONTON.

John Cameron. General Merchant.	M. G. Connors. Furniture Dealer. Wholesale and Retail.	Sam. Hill. Brick and Stone Mason.
Larue & Picard. General Merchants.	Looby & Co. Harness, Saddles, Whips, Combs, Curry Combs, etc., etc. All work guaranteed.	Wm. West. Brick and Stone Mason.
Geo. H. Wharton. Late of Manchester, England. Dealer in fancy Dry Goods.	Hutchings & Riley. Harness and Saddle Makers. Shops at Edmonton and Calgary. Team Harness a specialty.	Geo. West. Teamster.
W. Johnston Walker. The Manchester House. Dry Goods. Direct Importer of English Goods.	E. Looby. Carriage and Blacksmith Shop.	The Singer Manufacturing Company. Latest and most improved style of Sewing Machines. F. S. Glover, Agent.
Hudson's Bay Company. General Dry Goods. Boots and Shoes. Groceries and Provisions. We have also the finest selection of Wines, Liquors and Cigars.	Geo. P. Sanderson. General Blacksmith. Horseshoeing a specialty.	R. Foster. Barber.
The Manitoba Loan & Trust Company, Limited. Head Office—Winnipeg, Man. P. Daly, Agent, Edmonton, Alberta.	T. B. Henderson. Merchant Tailor.	Jas. McMunn. Proprietor Pioneer Barber Shop.
Brown & Curry. General Merchants.	P. A. Desormeau. Practical Tailor.	Mrs. O. H. Bush. Millinery.
J. A. McDougall. Dry Goods. Groceries. Boots and Shoes.	William Holiday. Merchant Tailor.	Mrs. J. E. Lambert. Millinery.
Ross Bros. Wholesale and Retail Hardware and Stoves.	Ed. Lyons. General Blacksmith.	Mrs. Chave and Mrs. Corriveau. Dress and Mantle Makers.
John Hourston & Co. Hardware Merchants. Stoves and Tinware.	Chas. Sandison. Coal Mine. First-class coal delivered at \$2.50 per ton.	Madame M. Brissette. Millinery.
Chave & Corriveau. Tinsmiths and Blacksmiths. Dealers in Hardware, Stoves and Tinware.	W. Humberstone. Manufacturer of Pressed Brick and dealer in coal.	P. Byrns. Boots and Shoes made to order. Main Street
E. Raymer. Watchmaker and Jeweller.	Donald Ross. Edmonton Coal Mines.	C. Gallagher. Pork Packer and dealer in all kinds of meat. Highest cash prices paid for Beef Cattle and Hogs.
F. D. Fortin. Stationery, Books and Fancy Goods.	W. T. Rees. Coal Merchant.	Edmonton Meat Market. R. Vance & Co., Proprietors. Highest cash price paid for Beef, Pork, Mutton, Poultry and Farmers' Produce. Main Street.
Geo. Thompson. Chemist and Druggist.	A. E. Pattison. Water Carrier and Drayman.	Howey Bros. Meat Market.
D. W. McDonald. Druggist and Pharmacist.	R. Duplessis. Carriage Maker and Painter. Victoria Avenue.	G. Goodall. Cellars and Post Holes dug. Ditching, Fencing, etc.
T. G. Lauder. Baker, Confectioner and Fruit Dealer. Wedding Cakes a specialty.	Wm. Barker. Stone and Brick Mason. Plasterer and Contractor.	West End Dairy. T. Hourston, Proprietor. R. Andrews, Manager.